

A Geographical Study of General Land Use Pattern in Marathwada Region

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Abstract: *In this study an effort to study the general land use pattern in Marathwada region. The term 'Landuse' means generally, the land utilization. The numerous factors are effects on general land use, like a physiography, climate, soil, irrigation and also some socio-economical elements. The present study is based on secondary data; data is obtained from governmental record. In the Marathwada region agriculture is dominant economic activity and their account is more in general land use. Out of the district geographical area 70.39 percent area under the net sown area followed by fallow land, cultivable waste and the amount of forest cover share very less with 3.45 percent.*

Keywords: Landuse pattern, Fallow land, Net sown area, Forest

I. INTRODUCTION

One of the most important natural resource available for the man is Landuse. It is play a key role of region's economy. Generally, land use means the utilization of land in deferent way. Today in the word the land use pattern is differs in one region to another region. In developed, developing and underdeveloped countries it is also deferent. In India most of the area is covered by agricultural land because India is one of the rural village country of the word more than 70% people involved in agriculture sector. The variation of the land use pattern in deferent part of the country is mainly affects physical elements like a topography, climate, soils, rainfall. Other hand types of economy, technological and social development also affect the disparity of land use pattern. In India the land use pattern classified in to five classes they are forest, land not available for cultivation, cultivable waste land, fallow land and net shown area.

Objective:

The main objective of the present research is to geographical analysis of general land use pattern in Marathwada region.

Database and Methodology:

The present paper is based secondary data. The secondary data is obtained from various sources which includes both published books, government and private publications. District census handbook, district statistical department, socio economic review and district statistical abstract of the study region. Obtained data is processed and present in the form of tabular and graphical method.

Study Area:

The Aurangabad division is also known as Marathwada, which was formerly a part of Hyderabad state. Marathwada region situated in the upper basin of river Godavari, it is situated central part of the Maharashtra, which extends from 17° 35' North latitude to 20° 40' North latitude and from 74° 40' East longitude to 78° 19' East longitude. The shape of this region is roughly triangular, East to West maximum length is about 394 Km. and from North to South width is about 330 Km. It is one of the distinct administrative division of Maharashtra and its includes eight districts these are Aurangabad, Nanded, Jalna, Beed, Hingoli, Parbhani Latur and Osmanabad district.

General Land Use Pattern

Forest:

The forest area of the Marathwada region very low than the other region of Maharashtra because most of the area under the drought. The land under forest is only 3.23 percent area of the total geographical area of the Marathwada region. The district of Nanded (8.01), Aurangabad (6.93) and Hingoli (6.26) are having more land under forest than regional average while remaining five district has below the average.

Land Not Available for the Cultivation:

In the land not available for the cultivation comprise of barren land, uncultivable land and land occupied by non-agricultural uses like a road, railways, settlement, river and canals. The regional average area of this category is 5.34 percent. The high record observed in Aurangabad (8.04) and Beed district (6.06) and lowest percentage recorded in Jalna district of this category i.e. only 3.52 percent

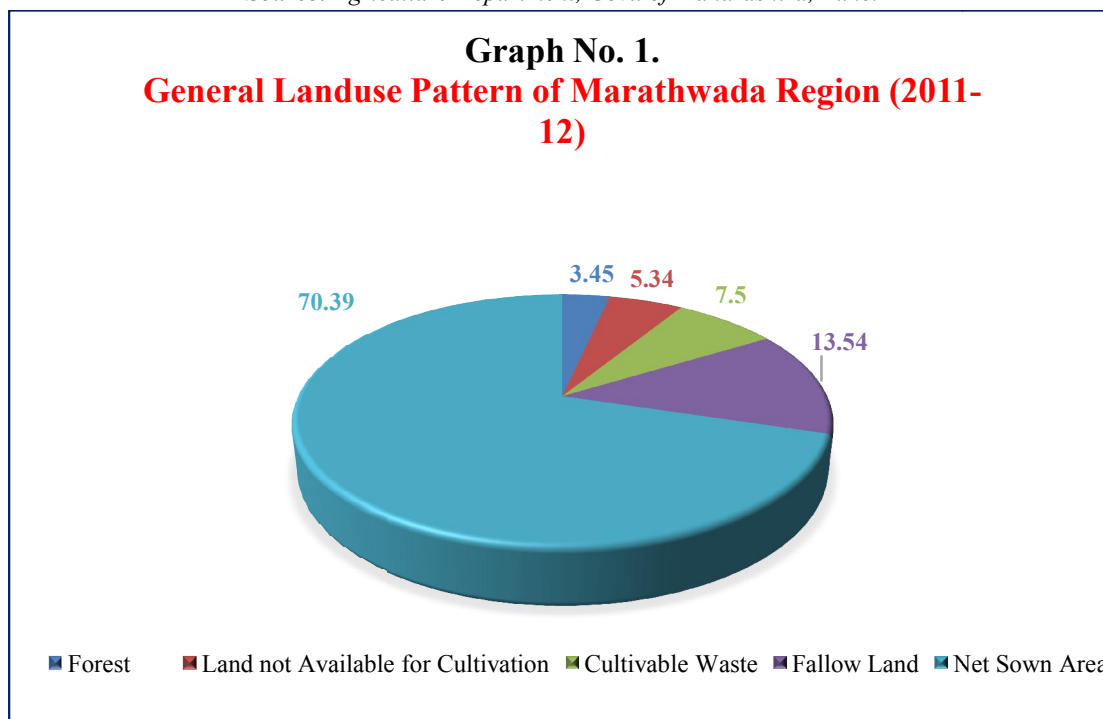
Cultivable Waste Land:

In the cultivable waste land comprises the land which is suitable for the cultivation but it is under by different vegetation like shrubs and grass. The regional average area of this category is 7.50 percent of the total geographical area of the region. It is observed that Osmanabad (9.42), Latur (9.22), Nanded district (9.11) are above the regional average area of this category and remaining district are below the average.

Table No. 1.: General Landuse Pattern of Marathwada Region (2011-12)

District	Forest	Land Not Available for Cultivation	Cultivable Waste	Fallow Land	Net Sown Area
Nanded	8.01	5.55	9.11	8.76	68.57
Hingoli	6.26	4.08	6.46	12.62	70.59
Parbhani	1.01	5.83	5.96	10.70	76.50
Jalna	0.63	3.52	6.80	15.53	73.52
Aurangabad	6.93	8.04	5.72	11.21	68.11
Beed	2.13	6.06	7.33	14.43	70.04
Latur	0.25	5.99	9.22	11.95	72.59
Osmanabad	0.59	3.62	9.42	23.14	63.23
Region	3.45	5.34	7.50	13.54	70.39

Source: Agriculture Department, Govt. of Maharashtra, Pune.



Fallow Land:

It is second largest land under this category, because of most of the area of the region under hilly terrain and drought prone zone. Balaghat, and Ajanta mountain ranges occupied most of the area of the study region. The average area under fallow land was 13.54 percent area, in which highest fallow land observed in Osmanabad district (18.31) after that recorded Jalna (15.53), Beed (14.43) and Hingoli district (12.62) while; Nanded district has observed lowest account only 8.76 percent area under this category.

Net Sown Area:

It is one of the important category of the land use pattern of Marathwada region. The average amount of net sown area of the study region recorded 70.39 percent of the total geographical area. Parbhani, Jalna, Latur and Hingoli district are recorded well high of the regional average and remaining district are recorded below the regional average.

II. CONCLUSION

Agriculture is a dominant economy of the study area especially in rural area, hence most of the area involves of this category. Out of total geographical area net sown area share 70.39 percent area of the Marathwada region. Fallow land is second largest categories, most of the area is covered by this category due to undulating terrain, unproductive land, rain shadow area and some socio-economic reasons. The account of forest land of the study region is very less (3.45) due to this area found in drought prone zone. The account of land not available for cultivation and cultivable waste land is very less with 5.34 and 7.5 percent to the total geographical area of the Marathwada region.

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